

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 07737 210718Z

15

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

SCCT-02 IO-14 SY-04 DRC-01 /152 W

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R 201408Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5577

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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BRUSSELS FOR FAA REP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, NI

SUBJ: CIVAIR: ALLEGED SABOTAGE AGAINST NIGERIA AIRWAYS

AIRCRAFT

1. NIGERIAN PRESS REPORTED AUGUST15 THAT LONDON POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS OF APPARENT SABOTAGE AGAINST NIGERIA AIRWAYS BOEING 707S AT HEATHROW AIRPORT. NO DATES GIVEN BUT FIRST INCIDENT REPORTED TO HAVE OCCURRED IN JULY THIS YEAR.

2. IN BOTH INCIDENTS, QUOTE LARGE PIECES OF METAL UNQUOTE WERE ALLEGEDLY PLACED INSIDE ENGINE CASING OF AIRCRAFT, BUT WERE DISCOVERED PRIOR TO TAKE-OFF. POLICE REPORTEDLY WORKING ON THEORY THAT DEEDS WERE DELIBERATE, NOT ACCIDENTAL, AND PERPETRATED BY WHITE AIRPORT MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL DISGRUNTLED OVER RUMORED NIGERIA AIRWAYS QUOTE AFRICANIZATION POLICY UNQUOTE AMONG LONDON STAFF. ACCORDING NIGERIAN PRESS, BRITISH AIRWAYS, WHICH IS UNDER CONTRACT TO MAINTAIN NIGERIA AIRWAYS BOEING 707S

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 07737 210718Z

AT HEATHROW, HAS ALSO STATED ITS BELIEF THAT INCIDENT NOT RPT

NOT ACCIDENTAL.

3. SABOTAGE THEORY, WITH ITS RACIAL OVERTONES, HAS STIRRED UP FAIR AMOUNT OF PRESS INTEREST HERE. ALLEGED AFRICANIZATION OF NIGERIA AIRWAYS LONDON STAFF SOMETHING OF A PUZZLE HOWEVER; AIRWAYS CHAIRMAN STATES HE UNAWARE OF SUCH A POLICY. ONE THEORY CIRCULATING HERE IS THAT INCIDENTS WERE INDEED ACCIDENTAL AND SABOTAGE STORY COOKED UP TO REMOVE TAIN OF INEFFICIENCY FROM BRITISH AIRWAYS. LOCAL BOEING MAINTENANCE REP SECONDED TO NIGERIAN AIRWAYS OFFERS OPINION THAT MECHANICS TOOLS COULD HAVE BEEN INADVERTENTLY LEFT IN ENGINE CASINGS.

FOR LONDON:

4. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HERE WHICH IS SEEKING CLARIFICATION BUT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY INFO THAT EMBASSY LONDON MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE.
STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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